

The Smokehouse

Where Country Hams Hang Out

March 2020

President, Larry Brumett, KN4IV

Vice President, Tom Buchanan KG4KGY

Sec/Treas, Herb Hess, KJ4CMG



MCARC Meeting February 18th, 2020

The meeting came to order at 7pm in the basement of the City Hall Building located in Glasgow, KY

KJ4OR made a motion, seconded by KC4RGE, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

KD4SS gave the financial report. He reported \$xxx in the checking and \$xxx in the savings. KF4LDQ made a motion, seconded by N9FXU to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: Went out to the Hwy 63 repeater site and put the amplifier back inline. K4UOJ

reported that some people are reporting that they can hear the repeater better in Bowling Green now. W4RRK reported that he was hearing the repeater up in Hodgenville, KY. Complaints about some issues with the Bonnieville repeater. W4RRK will investigate it.

Hamfest Committee: Hamfest is coming up on March 7th, 2020 at the Cave City Convention Center. All the tables have been sold. KN4IV will be over there Friday morning and Friday evening to set up tables and let vendors start setting up. Anyone that can, come by on Saturday morning at 5:30am and finish with the setup. Doors open at 7:30am. KK4OVW will be doing the talk in on the

.940 repeater. Exams will start at 9am.

Field Day/Special Event Committee: No report.

Webpage Committee: No report.

Old Business: KD4SS reported that the Old Kentucky Hams meeting was well attended. KJ4OR was elected as the new president. The KCARC Winter Field Day setup went well. The group made over 400 contacts. There 6-8 people that stayed during the while event with another 30-40 people coming by throughout the day.

New Business: KD4SS renewed the incorporation papers for the club with the Kentucky Secretary of State's office.

K4AUU and K4UOJ gave a presentation about POTA or Parks on the Air. He is very active on this program and has activated several parks and made a lot of contacts.

Motion by KG4KGY, seconded by N9FXU, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. There were 22 members at the meeting.



Coronavirus Outbreak Postpones Swains Island W8S DXpedition

The [W8S DXpedition](#) to Swains Island in the Pacific, set to take place in mid-March, has been postponed until fall as a result of travel restrictions imposed on individuals entering American Samoa, stemming from the recent coronavirus outbreak. The Department of Health allows non-residents to enter American Samoa only via Hawaii after a 14-day mandatory quarantine in Hawaii, and the DXpedition was unable to

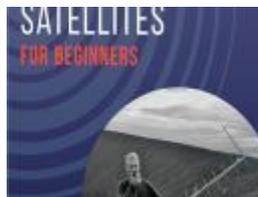
accommodate that requirement.

“Everything is prepared for our DXpedition, and we are eager to go, but unfortunately the coronavirus outbreak is out of our control,” the DXpedition team said in announcing the delay. “Although this is a disappointment for everyone, the W8S DXpedition is not cancelled, but just postponed for later this year.”

The DXpedition said it would alert the DX community as soon as it has new firm dates for the trip.

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International Group to Reactivate the Legendary Yasme VP2VB Call Sign

On Tuesday, March 10, an international group now in New York will set sail to the British Virgin Islands and activate the VP2VB call sign of *Yasme* fame for 6 days, focusing on the low bands with two stations. VP2VB was the call sign of the legendary Danny Weil, VP2VB, skipper of the *Yasme* series of sailing vessels that carried the peripatetic adventurer traveled from one DX

location to another in the 1950s and early 1960s. His activities provided the impetus to create [The Yasme Foundation](#). For the 2020 “Yasme Memorial Expedition,” operators will include Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA; Martti Laine, OH2BH; Niko Halminen, OH2GEK, and Sandro Nitoi, VE7NY. QSL via OH2BH.

A Briton, Weil was, by trade, a watch and clock maker with a sense of adventure. His initial *Yasme* (often also rendered as YASME) sailing voyage was to the British Virgin Islands. *Yasme* derives from the Japanese word “yasume,” which means “to make tranquil.” Another giant of ham radio history, the legendary DXer Dick Spencely, KV4AA, became aware of Weil’s aspirations and suggested that he combine amateur radio with his ambitious travel itinerary. Spencely taught Weil Morse code and helped him secure the VP2VB call sign, which was to become famous around the globe. Spencely secured the initial ham radio gear for the *Yasme* and became a tireless fundraiser for The Yasme Foundation as well.

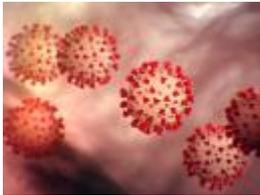
Ultimately, there were three *Yasmes*. From 1955 until 1962, Weil operated from several ports of call in the Caribbean and the Pacific. This latter-day VP2VB DXpedition will count toward [Yasme awards](#) and marks the first activation of VP2VB in more than 60 years.

This month’s VP2VB DXpedition will trace Weil’s original route in the British Virgin Islands under a special license authorization, to pay homage to those early years of DXing and to honor the spirit he embraced, which inspired a generation of DXers.

Weil’s last expedition in the Pacific included stops at HC8 and FO8 (Clipperton Island), the latter an especially harrowing and life-threatening experience. His new wife, Naomi, was with him at the time. The Mexican Navy rescued them and towed the *Yasme* to California. Weil went solo to several more stops in the Pacific before retiring from DXpeditioning and settling in Texas in 1963. He resumed his profession of a watch and clock maker there and became a US citizen. He was not to be heard on the air again —

although he kept an ear on the bands. Weil died in 2003 at age 85.

The DXpeditions of Weil and of Lloyd and Iris Colvin, W6KG and W6QL, are documented in [*YASME, The Danny Weil and Colvin Radio Expeditions*](#) by Jim Cain, K1TN, commissioned by The Yasme Foundation and published by ARRL.



Coronavirus Fears Spur Cancellation, Postponement of Some Ham Radio Events

Additional amateur radio events have been cancelled or postponed as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) fears.

The Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) has announced the cancellation of several amateur radio events planned for March, in the wake of a government policy requesting that events be canceled, postponed, or reduced in size for the next 2 weeks, saying “events that attract large numbers

of people have a large risk of infection.” JARL subsequently requested that all events scheduled in that time frame be canceled or postponed. Affected events include the West Nippon Ham Fair on March 8, the Chugoku Regional Amateur Radio Direction Finding Competition on March 15, and the Kagawa Ham Festival on March 22.

West Nippon Ham Fair organizers said they considered postponing the event for 6 months, but concluded there was no certainty that the coronavirus situation would be resolved by then.

Members of the Nara DX Association Japan have postponed the planned V6J IOTA DXpedition to Murilo Island in the Hall Islands at least until next year or later. “We hope the propagation will be better then,” the group said. “We hope spreading of coronaviruses will be stopped right away.”

In England, the Wythall Radio Club decided this week to cancel its March 15 [hamfest](#). “As a responsible club, we have taken this step to minimize any risks to the expected 400+ visitors and traders from the COVID-19 virus,

due to the uncertainties regarding the spread of the virus,” the club said.

In late February, Alex Gromme, 5B4ALX, postponed his March 18 – April 2 T30ET DXpedition to Tarawa (West Kiribati) because of the coronavirus outbreak. The Kiribati Ministry of Health told Gromme that he would need to be quarantined for 14 days in Honiara, Solomon Islands, before getting medical approval to continue on to Kiribati. He’s now looking at October 2020, assuming the COVID-19 situation is resolved by then.

Travel restrictions imposed on individuals entering American Samoa as a result of the coronavirus outbreak caused Swains Island W8S DXpedition organizers to postpone that DXpedition until later in the year. The team members were unable to comply with a 14-day mandatory quarantine in Hawaii. The DXpedition announced tentative dates of September 23 – October 6. — *Thanks to JARL, Southgate Amateur Radio News, OPDX*